



October 2008

The Bay Leaf

California Native Plant Society • East Bay Chapter • Alameda & Contra Costa Counties
www.ebcnps.org

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Plant Fair and Native Here p. 4,5

Friday, October 3, 9-noon, Native Here open for business

Saturday, October 4, 10-1, Native Here open for business

Tuesday, October 7, 9-1, seed collecting

1-4, Plant Fair preparation (volunteers)

Last nursery inspection before Plant Fair

No plant donations after this date

Friday, October 10, 9-noon, Native Here open for business

Saturday, October 11, 10-1, Native Here open for business

1-3, Plant Fair volunteers potluck picnic

List of plants to be sold at Plant Fair posted on web site

Tuesday, October 14, 9-1, Seed collecting

1-4, Plant Fair preparation (volunteers)

Friday, October 17, 9-noon, Native Here open for business

Noon-5 Plant Fair set-up at Native Here (no sales)

**Saturday & Sunday, October 18, 10-3 and October 19, 12-3,
Native Plant Fair at Native Here**

Monday, October 20, clean-up from Fair, help needed

Tuesday, October 21, 9-1, seed collecting

Friday, October 24, 9-noon, Native Here open for business

Saturday, October 25, 10-1, Native Here open for business

Tuesday, October 28, 9-1, seed collecting

Plant Fair wind-up (sales and volunteers)

Friday, October 31, 9-noon, Native Here open for business

Saturday, November 1, 10-1, Native Here open for business

Field Trip p. 5

Sunday, October 5, 10 am, Maguire Peaks in Sunol Regional Wilderness

Restoration Party p. 7

Saturday, October 11, 9:30 am, Restoration Crew, Huckleberry Regional Preserve

Membership Meeting see below

Wednesday, October 22, 7:30 pm, Garden Room, Orinda Public Library

MEMBERSHIP MEETING

Cacti, Agaves, and Yuccas of California and Nevada

Speaker: **Stephen Ingram**

Wednesday, October 22, 7:30 pm

Location: Garden Room, Orinda Public Library (directions below)

California and Nevada are known for their astonishing array of plant life, and few components of this diverse flora are more intriguing than the cacti, agaves, and yuccas. These spiny succulents—which share many of the same arid habitats—have long been a source of fascination for explorers, naturalists, and scientists.

Botanist, writer, and photographer Stephen Ingram traveled more than 30,000 miles—much of it on remote back roads—to search out, study, and photograph these amazing plants. His multimedia presentation explores some of their unique attributes and highlights what makes them such intriguing components of our native plant communities. With stunning images of their colorful blossoms and unusual growth forms, this program showcases a

number of species and varieties that occur in California's deserts and coastal areas. Following the presentation, Stephen will sign copies of his new book from Cachuma Press, *Cacti, Agaves, and Yuccas of California and Nevada*.

Stephen Ingram is a native Californian with a long-time interest in plants and plant ecology. He received a BS degree in biology from Lewis and Clark College, and an MA degree in botany from the University of California, Santa Barbara. Following graduate school, Stephen was employed in the research department at Marie Selby Botanical Gardens in Sarasota, Florida, managing the herbarium and working on an epiphyte flora of Monteverde, Costa Rica. He has also worked as a botanical consultant doing rare plant surveys in the eastern Sierra and the Mojave Desert. Stephen is past president of the Bristlecone Chapter of the California Native Plant Society. His photos have been used in numerous books, magazines, and calendars.

East Bay CNPS membership meetings are free of charge and open to everyone. This month's meeting takes place in the Garden Room

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MEMBERSHIP MEETING

of the Orinda Public Library at 24 Orinda Way (in Orinda Village). The Garden Room is on the second floor of the building, accessible by stairs or an elevator. The Garden Room will open at 7:00 pm; the meeting begins at 7:30 pm. Refreshments will be served after the presentation, and copies of Cacti, Agaves, and Yuccas of California and Nevada will be available for purchase. Please contact Sue Rosenthal, 510-496-6016 or rosacalifornica@earthlink.net, if you have any questions.

Directions to Orinda Public Library at 24 Orinda Way:

From the west, take Highway 24 to the Orinda/Moraga exit. At the end of the off ramp, turn left on Camino Pablo (toward Orinda Village), right on Santa Maria Way (the signal after the BART station and freeway entrance), and left on Orinda Way.

From the east, take Highway 24 to the Orinda exit. Follow the ramp to Orinda Village. Turn right on Santa Maria Way (the first

signal) and left on Orinda Way.

Once on Orinda Way, go 1 short block to the parking lot on the southeast side of the new 2-story building on your right. There is additional free parking beneath the building as well as on the street.

From BART (4 blocks): Exit the Orinda station, turn right and cross a pedestrian bridge, then cross a second pedestrian bridge on the left. Go 1 short block on the sidewalk to the third pedestrian bridge. Go 2 blocks on Orinda Way to the Orinda Library.

Upcoming Programs

Wednesday, November 19, 7:30 pm (in the Garden Room of the Orinda Public Library):

Bonnie Gisel and Stephen Joseph—Nature's Beloved Son: Rediscovering John Muir's Botanical Legacy

YES ON MEASURE WW

Letter to East Bay CNPS Members Regarding Measure WW

On August 5 the East Bay Regional Park District Board of Directors took the final step to place Measure WW on the November 4 ballot. Measure WW is an extension of Measure AA, the successful park bond passed by Alameda and Contra Costa County voters in 1988 that has provided funding during the past 20-years to preserve 34,000 acres of open space, acquire 17 new Regional Parks, and add 15 new Regional Trails. The East Bay Chapter Board of CNPS has endorsed the measure as critical to conserving remaining lands that hold important populations of native plant species and native plant communities in our two-county area.

Through our chapter's work on the East Contra Costa County Habitat Conservation Plan, the Priority Plant Protection Areas, and other key projects, we have identified lands with native plant resources that are on the list of potential acquisition sites with funds generated by Measure WW. These include such critical sites as the Dublin Hills, Duarte Canyon, North Richmond Wetlands, Point Edith Wetlands, Point Molate, Byron Vernal Pools, Concord Naval Weapons Station, Doolan Canyon, and Deer Valley.

If Measure WW is approved by the voters, the extended park bond will be used, during the next 20-years, to restore urban creeks; purchase and save additional open space, wetlands, and bay shoreline; provide additional funding for parks to help implement the East Contra Costa Habitat Conservation Plan; and allow the District to acquire parklands to keep pace with our growing population that will reach 3 million residents in the next 20-years. That's why our chapter board voted in September to endorse Measure WW. For a complete listing of the proposed Park District's 67 timely park and trail projects and an overall Measure WW budget go to either the Campaign's webpage at www.yesforparks.org, or the District's webpage at www.ebparks.org.

The natural and cultural resources found in today's regional parks, whether a rare plant, wild animal, a spectacular wildflower display, chaparral slope, bedrock mortar, historic site, panoramic vista, or a secluded meadow are all public treasures. Ninety percent of district parklands are undeveloped, forming habitat for native plants, wildlife, and the expansive open space areas that visitors and CNPS members so enjoy. Numerous park sites also contain protected species of plants or animals listed as rare, threatened, or endangered, as are protected Native American sites that contain rock art, burials, or village sites.

While the Park District has accomplished much over the past 74-years, there is a lot more to do. The District's updated master plan map identifies several locations for possible new regional parklands and trails that are currently unfunded. In addition to the sites mentioned above, they include the Alameda Naval Air Station, Altamont/Tesla Open Space, Bethany Reservoir, Cedar Mountain, Delta Access, Delta Recreation Area, Pittsburg-Antioch Shoreline, Oakland Shoreline, and Rancho Pinole. The master plan map also includes a full listing of the 83 trail links (some already developed and some yet to be acquired) that will be necessary to complete the districts regional trail system.

Best of all, Measure WW will not increase our tax rate, it simply retains the current tax rate set by the 1988 bond measure of a maximum of \$10 per year per \$100,000 assessed valuation (i.e. a home assessed at \$400,000 will pay \$40 a year as it does currently).

We hope CNPS members will join us in supporting and voting yes for Measure WW on November 4.

Charli Daniels, President East Bay Chapter, *Laura Baker*, Chapter Conservation Chair, and *Jerry Kent*, Yes For Parks Committee and Retired EBRPD Assistant General Manager of Operations.

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CONSERVATION ANALYST'S FUND

Below is the latest list of contributors to the Conservation Analyst's Fund. To date, you, our generous members, have donated a whopping \$25,675 to the fund. What a wonderful way for you to let us know how much you value the work that Lech does. Thank you for that tremendous vote of confidence, but please don't let up yet. We still have another \$7,325 to raise to reach our goal of \$33,000. If you are a new member and aren't familiar with this campaign, the money raised supports a half-time position (with benefits) for our Conservation Analyst who reads and comments on EIRs and development projects, attends public meetings to

give testimony, helps coordinate conservation strategy with the committee, helps plan the statewide Conservation Conference in January, and gives us a place at the table when agencies meet to discuss the fate of lands where native plant communities still thrive. Please consider making a donation to keep our program going. Thank you for your support.

Laura Baker, Conservation Committee Chair

John Alcorn
Judge Carl West Anderson
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Dr. Steve Asztalos
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THE PLANT FAIR HAS A STATEWIDE SELECTION

The Plant Fair on October 18-19 features California natives from all over the state: manzanitas, Ceanothus, Salvia, buckwheats, pipevine, Verbena, rockcress, california fuchsia, ferns, and more.

These plants will be sold only during the Plant Fair. See the inventory online at www.ebcnps.org.

Plant donations will be accepted until October 7.

Appreciation Party for all Plant Fair and Native Here Volunteers

October 11, 1 to 3 pm at Native Here Nursery

All Native Here and Plant Fair volunteers are invited to come to Native Here Nursery the Saturday before the Plant Fair to be appreciated for all the work you have done (and will do) for the Nursery and the 2008 Plant Fair.

You'll have a chance to enjoy the Nursery, pick up a plant sale inventory, meet your fellow volunteers and enjoy some food and drink.

New volunteers are welcome. We will be preparing for the Plant Fair starting 10 am, and all the next week.

Please come. We look forward to seeing you at Native Here.

Delia Taylor and Charli Danielsen



Delia and Cesar have fun getting ready for the upcoming Plant Fair while Annie, Delia's dog and the Nursery's favorite mascot, enjoys helping too.
Photo by Janice Bray

NATIVE HERE

Native Here Nursery

101 Golf Course Drive, Tilden Park (across from the Tilden Park Golf Course)

510/549-0211 nativehere@ebcnps.org

Native Here sells local native plants year round (see calendar on page 1 for times).

Featured this month

Cornus sericea, Creek or red-twig dogwood (Cornaceae)

2 gal, \$13, gallon \$8

Red twig dogwood is a riparian shrub throughout our chapter area. It is a spreading shrub, to 15 ft tall, with a broad rounded habit, forming large expanding thickets. Flowers are in 2-3 inch clusters and form that attract from the im- the leaves col- It is adaptable sun or shade creek, it needs regular watering bordering streambanks.



Cornus sericea Photo by Janice Bray

white berries birds. Away mediate coast or in the fall. and grows in . If not on a occasional or ter. It is useful on lawns, in It combines nicely with big leaf maple, Fremont cottonwood and California wild grape, but typically shares creek settings with willow. In winter the red stems are quite showy.

To maintain, prune late in the dormant season to control size, remove undesired rooting stems. Twig color improves with pruning. Twigs can be used for basketry.

Description adapted from *California Native Plants for the Garden* by Bornstein, Frost and O'Brien.

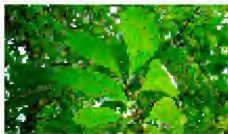
Oemleria cerasiformis, osoberry or Indian plum (Rosaceae)
2gal \$13

Osoberry grows on canyon bottoms, openly wooded hillsides, scattered on open north facing slopes, usually with a northern exposure from Point Molate to the Hamilton Range. It is deciduous, grows 6 to 20 ft. in light shade to full sun. It needs moist humus soils. It is one of the earliest natives to flower, in late winter. It is dioecious,

i.e. it has male and female flowers. Both are needed for fruit to set. The fruit is purple and edible. Description adapted from *East Bay Native Plants*, by Bray, Danielsens and Weber.

These and other plants are in good supply this month at Native Here and will be available during the Plant Fair.

Photos and information on other plants is on Bray has prepared will be selling at the Plant Fair for



Oemleria cerasiformis Photo by Janice Bray

Volume buyers, professionals take

no percentage discounts during the Plant Fair weekend, so come in during regular hours before the Fair weekend.

Volunteer opportunities

We'll have plenty of tasks for volunteers, including seed sowing. Come to the Nursery at the times listed on the calendar or email us at nativehere@ebcnps.org and we'll get you going labeling, sowing seeds, transplanting, watering, weeding, and other fun tasks. Watering involves many volunteer hours. Watering help is needed on Tuesday and Thursday afternoons.

Seed collecting trips continue through this month. Regular Tuesday morning trips meet at 9 am at the bottom gate of the Nursery and will end by 1 pm. Kids are welcome to come along on Tuesday mornings. Gregg is leading longer trips on various days. You may call him at 510-223-3310 for more information.

Nursery container reuse

We accept used pots and are happy to see them used in school projects, etc. There is a bin just outside the driveway gate for this purpose.

Margot Cunningham, Janice Bray & Charli Danielsens

FIELD TRIPS

Sunday, October 5, 10 am, Maguire Peaks in Sunol Regional Wilderness

The hike is about 5 miles round trip. The elevation change is around 800 feet. We will look for *Quercus palmeri* with acorns, *Artemisia dracunculoides*, *Eriogonum fasciculatum* var. *polifolium* in dry flower stage, and *Amelanchier utahensis* with dry fruit. There will be some nice views.

Directions to Sunol RP: Go south on I-680 and exit at Calaveras Road/Highway 84 just south of Sunol. Do not exit at Sunol exit. Turn left on Calaveras Road, and proceed 4 miles to Geary Road. Go to the end of Geary Road and meet at the first parking lot on

the left right after the kiosk. There is an entrance fee of around \$5. We will meet at 10 am and carpool to the trailhead, a drive of about 15 minutes.

The trip leader is Gregg Weber. Call him at 510-223-3310 if you have any questions.

For a map and information about the plants growing in the area of the hike go to <http://tinyurl.com/MaguirePeaks2008>. The link is to the What Grows Here database of Calflora.

GETTING INVOLVED

We are counting the days until our Plant Fair. Have you signed up to help? There still is still time, just contact me at elainejx@att.net or Beth Keer bkeer@sbcglobal.net.

Have you decided that you would like to be notified electronically about upcoming events, volunteer opportunities, etc.? Please make sure we have your current email address. Let me, Carol, or the State office know if your email has changed.

Have any questions about upcoming events? Interested in getting more involved? Please don't hesitate to contact us. elainejx@att.net, 925-372-0687 or carolbcastro@hotmail.com, 510-352-2382

Getting More Involved and Having Lots of Fun Doing It Think Globally, Volunteer Locally

Brentwood The Friends of Marsh Creek will be planting a California Native Demonstration Garden in Creekside Park. Contact Mary Grim 925-672-6522 x 113 or email mary.grim@ca.nacdn.net

Clayton Help needed at the Native Plant Garden at the Clayton Library. Contact Lisa Anich at 925-689-2642 or email admin@diablocreek.info.

Martinez Help needed at the new Native Plant Garden at the John Muir Historical Site Visitors Center. Join us on most Monday or Tuesday mornings for an hour or so of general clean up at our beautiful new garden. We have finalized the Color & Garden Book, and it will be available at the John Muir Visitors Center for a \$5.00 donation. Contact Elaine Jackson at 925-372-0687 or email elainejx@att.net

Martinez Strentzel Meadow is in the process of planning a native butterfly garden and possible seeding of additional native grasses.

A talk will take place in the August/September time frame on seeding of native grasses by Alyson Aquino, District Conservationist, and United States Department of Agriculture Natural Resources Conservation Service. Contact Elaine Jackson at 925-372-0687 or email elainejx@att.net

Mt Diablo State Park Looking for some skilled volunteer help in designing the Mitchell Canyon Interpretive Garden with plants from the Mitchell Canyon watershed. Contact Dave Caniglia at cani@mindspring.com or 925-287-9733.

Pleasant Hill Volunteers are always welcome at the Pleasant Hill Adult Education Center Garden. Contact Monika Olsen at 925-937-1530 or email phcgcgarden@prodigy.net

Walnut Creek Native demonstration garden on The Iron Horse Trail in Walnut Creek near the Walnut Creek Intermediate. Contact Judy Adler, jadlermtnmama@sbcglobal.net

(Do you have or know of a local event coming up in your neighborhood that would be a good location for CNPS to have a display table? You can host it. Come on up to our Native Here Nursery (during business hours) and pick up supplies to pass out. Call us with any questions.)

New Members

Please join us in welcoming those who joined in July: Denise Evans, William Graves, Bridget Harcey, Christine Pyers, Rob Thoms, Dagma Abbott, Debra De Leon, Suzanne Skrivanich, and we are looking for a correct address for Kevin Otis.

Many thanks to all of you that have renewed your membership.

Elaine Jackson and Carol Castro

CONSERVATION CONFERENCE

Contributions sought for silent auction to benefit CNPS

The Conservation Conference Silent Auction Committee seeks donations for a Silent Auction to take place during the Conservation Conference January 17-19, 2009. The proceeds will benefit the CNPS Conservation Program.

The auction will take place January 18. What to contribute? There are no restrictions. Just think about what you might like to buy: artwork, books, photos, seeds, garden tools, anything nice.

Other ideas: a week or weekend in a vacation home, airline tickets, camera, computer or binoculars in working condition, a garden

design by a landscaper, garden services, a lovely vase or pot, a quilt with a plant theme.

There is a donation form on the cnps.org website. Click on Conservation Conference logo and go down the side bar on the right to Silent Auction Donations near the bottom.

I will be happy to collect donations from our area and take them to the auction. Please contact me if you have questions or donations: Delia Taylor 510-527-3912, deliataylor@mac.com

Did you know that you can renew your CNPS membership online using a credit card? As an option, you can set it up to renew automatically year after year. It is quick, easy, convenient, and reduces the cost of mailing renewal notices.

Go to www.cnps.org and click on the Join button.

RESTORATION

Saturday, October 11, 9:30 am, Restoration Crew, Huckleberry Regional Preserve

Join us to continue removing *Vinca*, *Myosotis*, *Delaware* (cape ivy), and *Genista* (French broom) from the preserve area nearest the trailhead. For the more adventurous, a second group may go down

the loop trail to remove *Myosotis* and *Delaware*. Bring tools and gloves, although we have a few of each to loan if needed. Bring water, but we will also have some on hand if needed.

Janet Gawthrop

A TRIP TO DILLER CANYON

On a late August weekend this year, three of us traveled from the East Bay to hike to an elevation of 9,200 feet in Diller Canyon on Shastina, the subsidiary peak that forms the west flank of Mount Shasta. Our purpose was to search for *Botrychium pumicola*, a rare fern whose only record from California is a single collection from this site in 1941. Tom Madsen, Mike Park and myself met up with Ranger Eric White and local enthusiast Paul Nutt in Shasta City. Eric was extremely helpful in providing and driving a four-wheel drive vehicle to get us to our starting elevation above 7,000 feet. The five of us set out up the canyon, and the accompanying photographs show some of the terrain we encountered. Needless to say, we did not find *Botrychium pumicola*, but given that *Botrychiums* are notoriously fickle in their appearance year by year, we remain hopeful that it may still be there. We believe that we reached the original site, but this year there had been less of a snow pack than normal, in contrast to 1941, which was a very heavy snow year.

Later in the weekend, we did see the more widespread *Botrychium simplex* at Panther Meadows, as well as the very rare (in California) *Botrychium pinnatum* (see photo). Then we traveled to the nearby Salmon Mountains west of Etna to see *Botrychium multifidum* and *B. virginianum*, which are now placed in separate genera by many botanists. The genus *Botrychium* and its close relatives contain many of the rarest ferns in California, with as many as six additional species being newly found or recognized as here since the *Jepson Manual* was published in 1993. *B. pumicola* is of special interest, since elsewhere it is known only from the Crater Lake area and a few other sites in Oregon. The single Californian collection has recently been examined in detail by Don Farrar at Iowa State University, who has confirmed its identity beyond doubt. Let's hope for a wet winter so that we can perhaps rediscover it for ourselves next year!

John Game



Possible habitat for *B. pumicola* in the pumice and low conifers is seen in this view of Shastina from the treeline. Photo by John Game



Hiking up Diller Canyon Photo by John Game



Botrychium pinnatum in forest on Mount Shasta, 1997 Photo by John Game

Board of Directors

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President
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510-549-0211
nativehere@ebcnps.org

Vice President
Delia Taylor
510-234-2912
deliataylor@mac.com

Treasurer
Holly Forbes
hforbes@berkeley.edu
h 510-234-2913
w 510-643-8040
FAX 510-642-5045

Recording Secretary
Barbara Malloch Leitner
925-253-8300
bleitner@pacbell.net

Corresponding Secretary
Laura Baker
510-849-1409
Lbake66@aol.com

Past President
Elaine Jackson
925-372-0687
Elainejx@att.net

Education/Outreach
Bay Leaf Editor and Web-
master
Joe Willingham
510-841-4681
pepe1066@comcast.net

Bay Leaf Assistant Editor
David Margolies
510-654-0283
dm@franz.com

Bay Leaf Mailing
Holly Forbes
510-234-2913
hforbes@berkeley.edu

Education
open

Field Trips
Janet Gawthrop
_janetg24@excite.com

Regional Parks Botanic
Garden Liaison
Sue Rosenthal
510-496-6016
rosacalifornica@earthlink.
net

Grants
Sandy McCoy
sandyccoy@mindspring.
com

Hospitality
open
Membership
Elaine P. Jackson
925-372-0687
Elainejx@mindspring.com

Carol Castro
510-352-2382
carollbcastro@hotmail.
com

Plant Sale
Interim Chair
Sue Rosenthal
510-496-6016
rosacalifornica@earthlink.
net

Book Sales
Elly Bade
bebade@sbcglobal.net

Programs
Sue Rosenthal
510-496-6016
rosacalifornica@earthlink.
net

Publicity/Media
open

Conservation
Conservation Committee
Chair
Laura Baker
510-849-1409
Lbake66@aol.com

Conservation Analyst
(Staff)
Lech Naumovich
510 734-0335
conservation@ebcnps.org

Stewardship
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Native Here Nursery
Charli Danielsen Project
Manager
Margot Cunningham Sales
Manager
Janice Bray Liaison to
Board
510-549-0211
nativehere@ebcnps.org

Plant Science
Bryophytes
John Game 510-527-7855
jcgame@stanford.edu

Rare Plants
Heath Bartosh

925-957-0069
hbartosh@nomadecology.
com

Unusual Plants
Dianne Lake
510-741-8066
diannelake@yahoo.com

Vegetation
Erin McDermott
erinmcd2004@yahoo.com

Members at Large
Gregg Weber
510-223-3310

Roy West
rwest@monocot.com
650-906-1100

Peter Rauch
peterar@berkeley.edu

Membership Application

Name _____

Address _____

Zip _____ Telephone _____

I wish to affiliate with:

____ East Bay Chapter (Alameda and Contra Costa Counties)

____ Other _____

E-mail _____
(optional)

Membership category:

- ____ Student, Limited income, \$25
- ____ Individual, Library, \$45
- ____ Household, Family, or Group, \$75
- ____ Supporting, \$75
- ____ Plant lover, \$100
- ____ Patron, \$300
- ____ Benefactor, \$600
- ____ Mariposa Lily, \$1500

Mail application and check to: California Native Plant Society, 2707 K Street, Suite 1, Sacramento CA 95816

California Native Plant Society
East Bay Chapter
P.O. Box 5597, Elmwood Station
Berkeley CA 94705

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Time Value
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